

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 10, 2009 has been received and carefully studied.

A Request for Continued Examination is filed herewith.

The Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-6, 18-21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Bray, U.S. Patent No. 3,542,119 and Brown '248. The Examiner also rejects claim 7 as being unpatentable over Bray and Brown further in view of Regunathan, et al.; claims 8, 10-12 and 22 as being unpatentable over Bray and Brown in view of Regunathan et al. and further in view of Whittier et al.; claims 13-16 as being unpatentable over Bray and Brown in view of Regunathan et al. in view of Whittier et al., and further in view of Burrows; claim 9 as being unpatentable over Bray and Brown in view of Regunathan et al. and further in view of Whittier et al., and further in view of Petrucci et al.; and claim 17 as being unpatentable over Bray and Brown in view of Regunathan et al. and further in view of Whittier et al., and further in view of Gundrum et al.

By the accompanying amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the cylindrical container is provided at a first of its axial ends with a head having fluid inlet and outlet orifices communicating with the interior of the

module and having a cylindrical skirt projecting axially therefrom, and at a second of its axial ends with a bottom comprising a crenellated ring projecting axially therefrom, and to recite that the separator means extends from the cylindrical skirt to the crenellated ring, and the external cylindrical space and the internal cylindrical space communicate with each other via one or more passages defined by the crenellations in the crenellated ring. Support for the amendment can be found on page 10 of the specification, and in FIGS. 3-5, for example.


The external and internal spaces of Bray communicate with each other as a result of a loose fit between the upper end of shroud 36 and against septum 44 and its should 42, see column 2, lines 23-26 of Bray. No crenellated ring structure exists, with passages defined by the crenellations to allow communication between the two spaces, as is now recited in the instant claims. In addition, Bray does not disclose or suggest a head having fluid inlet and outlet orifices communicating with the interior of the module and having a cylindrical skirt projecting axially therefrom, and at a second of its axial ends with a bottom comprising a crenellated ring projecting axially therefrom, with the separator means extends from the cylindrical skirt to the

crenellated ring. Brown does not supply this deficiency of Bray.

None of the remaining secondary references supplies the above-noted deficiencies of Bray and Brown.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing.

Respectfully submitted,


Kevin S. Lemack
Reg. No. 32,579
176 E. Main Street - Suite 5
Westboro, Massachusetts 01581
TEL: (508) 898-1818